

INVENTOR: INCH, et al.
Serial No. 10/821,489

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please enter the following amendments to the specification. No new matter has been introduced by these changes to the specification.

Please replace the abstract with the following paragraph:

A non-welded field joint for connecting two portions of a pot and pan washing machine together as a single unit is provided.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 4 and ending at page 7, line 2 as follows:

Very few kitchens have entrances large enough to make installation of a four basin washing machine system as a single unit practical. Therefore most pot and pan washing machines are constructed as a two-part (or more as necessary) unit which is assembled onsite during installation. As the pot and pan washing machine is preferably constructed of stainless steel, the preferred method for joining two sections of the machine into a single unit is to weld the sections together. While welding is a rather routine method of construction at the factory, it is not very practical for onsite assembly and installation. This is due to the difficulty of transporting and operating proper welding and grinding equipment onsite to make a smooth weld. Therefore, ~~seems~~seams that are welded onsite generally tend to have a less than desirable appearance.

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An alternative to welding two sections of a washing machine system together is to bolt the two sections together. Most often a bolted connection is as unattractive as, or even more unattractive than, a poorly welded ~~seem~~seam. Additionally, because a bolted connection results in a slight gap between the two sections of the washing machine system in which debris may collect, NSF standards require the inclusion of a two inch gap between the sections to facilitate cleaning. This results in a even greater reduction in the aesthetic appearance of the washing machine system and increases the size of the footprint of the system, or else reduces the usable volume of the basins. Therefore it is desirable to develop an attractive, non-welded field joint for assembling multiple components of a washing machine system into a single unit having no gaps between the joined components.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 18 as follows:

An inventive field joint and method is provided for assembling multiple portions or segments of the pot and pan washing machine into a single unit without the use of either a welded or a bolted connection. This inventive field joint increases the usable basin volume within a given footprint by eliminating the NSF required gap. The inventive field joint includes a hemmed edge located along an edge of a generally flat side of a first sink basin, and a lip located along an edge of a generally flat side of a second sink basin. A jog extends inward from one of the generally flat sides of the first or second sink basins such that the edge of the associated sink basin extends inward of

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the generally flat side of that sink basin. The lip is positioned over the hemmed edge forcing the generally flat sides of the first and second sink basins into tight engagement with one another. The inwardly extending jog assures tight engagement of the generally flat sides of the sink basins without any gap therebetween; thus providing an attractive, non-welded ~~seam~~seam. The outer sides of the sink basins that have been joined together can be covered with a decorative trim piece to enhance the aesthetically pleasing appearance of the washing machine.